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The author gives an explanation of nine words in the notes, which he thinks peculiar to Scotland, and that these are the only ones. He thinks, 'that the muscular strength of the English language consists in the energy of its primitive stem,—in the trunk from which all its foliage hath sprung, and around which its exuberant tendrils are all entwined and interwoven,—I mean the remains of the ancient Teutonick. On the strength of this conceived principle, which may haply be erroneous, I have laid it down as a maxim, that the greater number of these old words and terms that can be introduced with propriety into our language, the better. To this my casual innovations must be attributed. The authority of Grahame and Scott has of late rendered a few of these old terms legitimate. If I had been as much master of the standard language as they, I would have introduced ten times more.' We have only copied these sentences to enter a protest against them, and to express our satisfaction, that with such intentions he was not more master of the language. As it is, there are a great number of words that no common reader can understand; and if Scotland is to continue to furnish popular poems and romances, the most saleable and useful book that could be undertaken, would be a dictionary of obsolete, unintelligible, and barbarous terms.

Those who are fond of romantick tales and ballads founded on local superstitions, will be much pleased with those in this volume, many of which display considerable fancy and originality.

Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.—Vol. 3d of the second series. Boston, John Eliot, 8vo. pp. 296.

The Massachusetts Historical Society, was incorporated in 1794. There are some learned Societies which have been longer in existence; there are none that during the same period have rendered more service to their country. The volume now under consideration is the thirteenth which they have published; besides their labour and exertions in bringing out Hubbard's Ms. History; and, for the honour of the state, it should be mentioned, that they were assisted in the undertaking by a vote of the Legislature who sub-

scribed for a sufficient number of copies to present one to each town. The publications of this society have rescued a great many curious and important papers from oblivion; they form a collection of documents invaluable to the historian. By their efforts, a collection of minute facts relating to the early period of our history; will be handed to our posterity, which will give them a clear idea of the earliest origin of the nation, and this will be carried down to the most distant periods. As there is little to blame and much to praise in these early annals, every generation will look with increased veneration to the pure virtues and inflexible constancy of our heroick forefathers, and the influence of their example may stimulate future generations to avoid degeneracy.

The papers contained in these collections, are of course extremely miscellaneous. Ancient Ms. or small printed works that have become scarce; biographical sketches; original letters, of remarkable persons; topographical accounts of towns and parishes; documents relating to religion, war, finance, the Indian tribes, &c. &c. are all found in these volumes, and there are some articles on all these subjects in the volume now before us. These topographical and statistical papers, are very useful documents, and perhaps their interest rather increases than diminishes with time. Much praise is due to those gentlemen who have furnished them. Directions for papers of this kind, have been often given by this society; still there is much diversity in the essays given in. Some points are dwelt upon more than is necessary, and others are passed over too hastily, or entirely omitted. It would perhaps be well if the society should, through their members or correspondents, collect all the statistical details of some particular town, and then print it as a model, and send copies of it to individuals in every town in the state, who might be expected to pay attention to such subjects. This would perhaps induce some of them to prepare a similar return of their own districts. It is in the power of a respectable inhabitant, to furnish a statistical return of his own town, without very arduous labour or serious inconvenience, if it be undertaken gradually and methodically. Returns of the number of domestick animals, their current value, of the number of acres of land in cultivation, the kind and amount of crops, are important items and not usually given.

This present volume contains twenty-nine articles, of which eight are classed under the head of *History*, and fifteen under that of *Topography and Local History*. We shall offer a few remarks on some of these in the order of their insertion. The first paper is a description of Mashpee, in the County of Barnstable, dated September 16th, 1802. Mashpee is one of the Indian Colonies under the protection of the State, respecting which, this paper contains some curious information, and very sound reflections. It is perhaps not generally known, that the state of Massachusetts, has, from its earliest origin, maintained certain colonies of Indians to the present time, which Colonies have been managed and directed partly by the government, and partly by the society for propagating the gospel, the last body having we believe transferred their agency to the University; what progress they have made, what melioration of their condition has ensued, what advantages have resulted to society and religion from their joint efforts, will be best shewn by a few extracts from this short, extremely well written memoir.

‘ Mashpee, being south of the chain of hills, which extends from west to east along the north part of the county of Barnstable, is in general level land. The greatest part of it is covered with wood: the growth is a few oaks, but principally pitch pine. These woods, with those of Sandwich and Falmouth that join them, form an extensive forest, which affords a range for deer. In the same forest are also to be found a few rackoons. The land, which has been cleared, is chiefly on the necks near the harbours, and on the banks of the rivers and lakes. The soil of these places, particularly in the neighbourhood of John’s Pond, Mashpee Pond, and Sanctuit Pond, is pretty good. Much of the Land however is sandy. The cleared land has been estimated at about twelve hundred acres. The soil is easily tilled; and produces Indian corn from seven to twenty bushels by the acre, and about one third as much of rye. On new land, being a mixture of sand and loam, properly manured by foddering cattle with salt hay upon it, Mr. Hawley has raised fifty bushels of Indian corn to an acre. On seventy-seven rods of loamy land, being fresh and new, and properly manured, his son has grown not less than a hundred and ninety seven pounds of well dressed and good flax. Not much oats

‘and no barley are produced. The land at present is not manured by fish. The Indians use little barn dung; but about their hovels and stacks their land grows better. Some of them are farmers, and keep oxen; many of them own a cow, and a few sheep; and perhaps half a dozen of them possess horses. Beside corn and rye the Indians raise potatoes.’

‘Of the twelve or thirteen thousand acres of land in the plantation, a part is appropriated to the several families, is held in fee simple, is mostly enclosed, and descends by special custom. This family land, thus held separately, is considered and used as private property by the respective owners; and in no degree is the improvement of it affected by the special statutes made to regulate the plantation. The residue of the land is common and undivided, and wholly subject to these statutes and regulations. This land consists of a hundred and sixty acres of salt marsh, a few enclosed pastures, escheated to the plantation for want of heirs to inherit them, and the large tracts of wood land. One half of the marsh land is leased for the common benefit of the plantation. The overseers do not allow more wood to be carried to market, than can be spared; but it is for the general interest, that three or four hundred cords should be annually exported to Nantucket and other places. Besides these sources of income, several families of whites are tenants, and pay rent to the overseers for the benefit of the Indians. These monies are applied to the use of the poor, sick, and schools, and to the current expenses of the plantation. There are within the limits of Mashpee about twenty-five families of whites; the greatest part of whom live on a large tract of land in the neighbourhood of Waquoit Bay, which was alienated from the Indians above a century ago: they pay taxes and do duty in Falmouth. West of Whakepee is another tract of land in the possession of white inhabitants, who pay taxes in Sandwich. At Coatuit is another tract possessed by whites, who are taxed in Barnstable. These two tracts also were long since alienated from the Indians. The missionary himself, Mr. Hawley, considers himself as belonging to Barnstable; and votes with the freeholders of that town. Neither the lands nor the persons of the Indians in Mashpee, Martha’s Vineyard, or in any part of Massachusetts, are taxed; nor are they required to per-

‘form services to the government in any way. They are
‘not however a free people. The government views them
‘as children, who are incapable of taking care of themselves:
‘they are placed under overseers and guardians, who will
‘not permit them to do many things which they please,
‘and who in particular will not suffer them to sell their
‘lands to any one.

‘The inhabitants of Mashpee are denominated Indians ;
‘but very few of the pure race are left ; there are negroes,
‘mulattoes, and Germans. Their numbers have often been
‘taken ; and have not varied much during the past twenty
‘years. At present there are about eighty houses, and
‘three hundred and eighty souls.* The houses are either
‘wigwams or cottages. The wigwams are few in number ;
‘some of them are about fifteen or eighteen feet square ;
‘and others, of nearly the same dimensions, are of an octagon
‘shape. A fire is made in the middle of the floor ; and a
‘hole in the top suffers the smoke to escape. They are
‘built of sedge ; and will last about ten years. Some of
‘them are comfortable habitations in winter ; but in summer
‘they are so infested with fleas and bugs, that it is impossible
‘for any one but an Indian to sleep in them. The cottages
‘are dirty, unfinished huts.

‘The Indians in general are not neat either in their per-
‘sons or houses. Neither can they be said to be distin-
‘guished for their industry. Beside the farmers, some of
‘the men are whalers ; others catch trout, alewives, and
‘other fish in the rivers. Several of the women cultivate
‘the ground ; and many of them make brooms and baskets,
‘and sell them among their white neighbours, but more
‘frequently carry them over to Nantucket. A few of the
‘women manufacture their wool, and clothe themselves and
‘their husbands with the labour of their own hands. A
‘very few of them make butter or cheese. Several of the
‘young females go to the large sea-port towns for months
‘together, and serve in gentlemen’s kitchens, to the great
‘injury of their morals ; and others of the women lead a
‘vagabond life in the country, where at last they find negro

* ‘In 1803 an exact account was taken of the Indians, Negroes,
‘and Mulattoes in Mashpee, and the number was found to be three
‘hundred and fifty-seven.’

‘husbands, whom they bring home to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of Mashpee.

‘There are several schools, where the children are taught reading and spelling ; but none of them are good ; for as the Indians are scattered over the plantation, not enough children for a school can be collected in any one place. ‘The females are in general better taught than the males ; but many of the latter can write and cast accounts : and some of them have a mechanical turn.

‘Morals are not in a good state. There are instances of industry and temperance ; but too many of these Indians are unwilling to work, and are addicted to drunkenness. ‘The females are more temperate than the males ; but not a few of the young women, as well those who are married, as those who are not, are unchaste. The Indians, like other ignorant people, are apt to be suspicious. They cannot believe that the officers of government, the members of the Society for propagating the gospel, their overseers and guardians, and the other gentlemen, who have endeavoured to make them good and happy, and who, if ever men were disinterested, must be allowed to be so, are not under the dominion of selfish motives. Too many of them are false and trickish : their way of life disposes them to these vices ; hunting, fishing, and fowling, the usual employments of savages, train them up to be insidious. But though they are cunning and sly, yet they are at the same time improvident. If they were to be left to themselves, the Indians of Mashpee, and the same thing is true of those of Martha’s Vineyard, would soon divest themselves of their land, and spend the capital. The inhabitants of this place are poor ; and several of them are entirely supported by the guardians. At times all of them require relief. Their stores are generally very small, as an Indian depends for his daily bread upon his daily success : a week’s sickness therefore impoverishes the greatest part of them, and renders them destitute of every comfort. Without the compassion of their white guardians many of them would perish ; for they have not much pity for each other. Several of them have actually suffered in times passed, from want of attention. Not twenty years since, two widows, Sarah Esau and the widow Nauhaud, who were in usual health, but feeble and alone, perished, at different times, and not far from home. Their bodies

'were found ; but no coroner was called, no inquest was taken. These widows might be driven out by unkindness, or urged by want might be seeking wild fruit in the woods, where they got entangled and died. At that time the Indians of Mashpee were a body politic, and annually chose officers to provide for their poor. But the elected officers of any people are the people in miniature ; and among savages, and those who are in a low state of civilization, the sick and the aged are always treated with neglect : for tenderness and disinterested benevolence do not spring up in the heart like indigenous plants ; but they are the fruits of long, of laborious, and of intelligent cultivation.

'Religion among these people is not in a better state than morals. Last year their meeting house resembled a cage of unclean birds : it may not perhaps be in so bad a condition at present, as a promise was then given that it should be cleansed. The situation of it proved, that they took no delight in the worship of God, as the house which is dedicated to him was more offensive to the senses, than even their filthy huts. When the savages of New England were first converted to the christian faith, they were styled Praying Indians ; but this name cannot with propriety be applied to the inhabitants of Mashpee ; for family prayer is almost, if not altogether, unknown among them. Not much more attention is paid to publick, than to domestick religion : very few of the children are baptized ; and there are not more than ten or twelve communicants. In one respect, however, there seems to be no indifference to religion ; for, though there are not more than eighty families, yet there are two ministers of the gospel. Mr. Hawley, the missionary, is a Congregationalist ; and Mr. John Freeman, a half-blooded Indian, who is most followed by the natives, is a Baptist.—The Indians retain few of the superstitions of their ancestors : perhaps they are not more superstitious than their white neighbours. They still however preserve a regard for sacrifice rocks, on which they cast a stick or stone, when they pass by them. They themselves can hardly inform us why they do this, or when it began to be a custom among them. Perhaps it may be an acknowledgment of an invisible agent, a token of the gratitude of the passenger on his journey for the good hand of Providence over

‘him thus far, and may imply a mental prayer for its continu-
‘ance : or perhaps, as many of the vulgar among the English
‘carry about them lucky bones, and make use of other charms
‘to secure the smiles of fortune, so these sticks, which are
‘heaped on the sacrifice rocks, may be nothing more than offer-
‘ings made to good luck, a mysterious agent, which is scarce-
‘ly considered as a deity, which is spoken of without rever-
‘ence, and adored without devotion. Of the fables of the
‘Indians not many traces are left. One marvellous story
‘however is still preserved. Before the existence of Coa-
‘tuit Brook, a benevolent trout, intending to furnish the
‘Indians with a stream of fresh water, forced his way from
‘the sea into the land ; but finding the effort too great for
‘his strength, he expired, when another fish took up the
‘work where he left it, and completed the brook to Sanc-
‘tuit Pond. The reader may believe as much of the story
‘as he pleases. He probably would regard the whole as
‘a fiction, if he was not assured, that thousands of persons
‘have seen the mound of earth, which covers the grave of
‘the benevolent trout. It is on the grounds of Mr. Hawley,
‘and not far from his house ; and is twenty-seven feet over,
‘and fifty four feet in length.

‘Those parts of the history of Mashpee, which have been
‘given in these Collections,* need not be repeated here.
‘At the time when this territory was granted to the South
‘Sea Indians, as they are styled in the deeds, the natives
‘were numerous in the county of Barnstable ; but they
‘were not particularly so in Mashpee. At present there
‘are as many in Mashpee, as in former periods, whilst from
‘other parts of the county they have almost entirely disap-
‘peared. It must not be inferred from this fact, that the
‘plantation is exempt from the general law to which the abo-
‘riginals are subject, that its inhabitants should gradually
‘waste away ; but it has proceeded from this cause, that
‘Mashpee enjoying many peculiar privileges and advantages,
‘in particular that those who dwell in it are sure of a living,
‘from their labour, if they are willing to work, and from the
‘charity of their guardians, if they are not,—has during a
‘great number of years been an asylum for lazy Indians
‘from all quarters of the country. They have come, not

* ‘ See Coll. of Hist. Soc. 1st Ser. Vol. I. p. 196, 204. Vol. III. p. 188.
Vol. IV. p. 66. Vol. V. p. 206. Vol. X. p. 113, 133.’

‘only from the towns of the county, but from Middleborough, New Bedford, Natick, Narraganset, and even Long Island. So far is Mashpee from being able to keep good its numbers by natural population, that several ancient families have entirely lost their name. We might particularly mention the Wepquish and Sincausin families, who were remarkable for their cunning and artifice, and of whom, though they flourished here not forty years ago, no sprig now remains. Several ancient families however are still left, in particular the Popmonets and the Keetoahs.

‘The Commissioners of the Society for propagating the gospel in New England during a long course of years superintended these Indians ;* and they expended large sums of money for their benefit,—in the salaries of their ministers, in schools for the education of their children, in clothes and food for their poor, and in the journeys of committees, who visited them from time to time, for the sake of promoting their improvement in piety and virtue, of listening to their complaints, and redressing their grievances. The Report of one of the committees follows this Description ; and it is given as a specimen of the care, with which the Commissioners watched over these Indians. Committees of the legislature have also visited Mashpee, whenever it has been requested ; and have exhausted much time, patience, and money in the service of the inhabitants. It has not however been found easy to satisfy them, or to render them happy : as the committees could not give them temperance and industry, they have still remained poor, abject, and discontented.’

‘It appears from the account which has been given of this plantation, that it has been an expensive establishment from the beginning, but that probably little good has been produced. The Indians have become neither a religious nor a virtuous people, nor have they been made happy. No one can doubt the pious and benevolent intentions of Richard Bourne, who procured this extensive patent for the Indians ; nor of the gentlemen, who in succession, for a century and a half, have watched over them, like parents

* ‘Since the Revolution they have been under the care of other bodies of men. See Coll. of Hist. Soc. II. 47. 2d Series.’

‘over their children. The exertions, which have been
‘made for their benefit, are honourable to the government
‘of Massachusetts, and to the societies who have so liberal-
‘ly contributed their time and wealth ; but the melancholy
‘reflection, that they have laboured in vain, perpetually in-
‘trudes itself on the mind. With a hundredth part of the
‘pains which have been bestowed on these savages, a town
‘might have been raised up on the ground occupied by
‘them, which would contain four times as many white in-
‘habitants, enjoying all the comforts of civilized life, and
‘contributing by their industry to the welfare of the state,
‘and by the taxes, which they pay, to the support of gov-
‘ernment. This plantation may be compared to a pasture,
‘which is capable of feeding fifteen or sixteen hundred
‘sheep ; but into which several good-natured and visionary
‘gentlemen have put three or four hundred wolves, foxes,
‘and skunks, by way of experiment, with the hope that
‘they might in time be tamed. A shepherd has been
‘placed over them at high wages ; and as the animals have
‘been found to decrease, other wolves, foxes, and skunks
‘have been allured to the pasture, to keep up their number.
‘But the attempt has been in vain : the wild animals have
‘worried the shepherd ; have howled, and yelped, and cast
‘other indignities upon the gentlemen, who from time to
‘time have visited them, for the sake of observing how the
‘experiment went on ; and have almost died with hunger,
‘though they have been fed at an enormous expense.—
‘What then, it may be said, do you mean that this plantation
‘ought to be broken up, and its inhabitants dispersed ?
‘Shall the speculators, who are hovering on its borders, be
‘let in to prey on these natives, and to seize their lands ?
‘We answer, no : the plantation was entailed on these In-
‘dians in the days of our forefathers ; nor can they be dis-
‘possessed of it without an act of injustice. Let them re-
‘main ; and let the pious and benevolent still persevere in
‘their endeavours, however hopeless, to make them good
‘men and christians. Perhaps when they cease to be In-
‘dians, when their blood is more plentifully mixed with the
‘blood of Africa, they may acquire the habits of temper-
‘ance and industry ; and may become useful to the state, in
‘which they have so long been a nuisance : or if not, they
‘are our fellow men, and they are poor men ; they are in-
‘capable of supporting themselves, and consequently are
‘entitled to the alms of the charitable.’

Much has been said and written about the oppression of the natives, by the first settlers in this country ; many philanthropists have regretted that pains had not been taken to civilize them ; many well meaning, devout people, have deplored their heathenish condition ; with how much reason and justice these complaints have been uttered, this experiment may serve to explain. It will not be contended, that the experiment has been ill-conducted, this would be treason against the State ; it will not be said, that it is injudicious and extravagant, since it has been under the particular patronage of that most useful institution, the Society for propagating the gospel among the Indians ; it will not be alleged that it has been hasty and incomplete, for it has now lasted *one hundred and sixty years*. We would not, any more than the humane writer of this account of Mashpee, abandon these poor people suddenly ; we would not counsel the slightest violation of law to their disadvantage, we would on the contrary insist, that the legislature should guarantee their rights so long as any of the genuine Indians had the smallest claim to the land ; and preserve their interests with the same scrupulous integrity, that the English government did the possessions of the Jesuits in Canada, who after that order was prohibited from receiving any new members, still paid to them all the income of their property, while any of them remained, till for many years their ample revenues were received by only one or two individuals. But, it is surely time that the State should cease to maintain a depot for vagabonds of all colours, from all parts of the country ; or keep up an establishment for producing every possible variety of *cross*, between negroes and Indians. The Society for propagating the Gospel having transferred their superintendence to the government of the University, do not feel the want of them in their annual report ; though in the total absence of misery and ignorance in this country, they would have been much embarrassed by the extinction of this establishment ; had not the recent plan for converting the Hindoos, offered them a resource, that when all others fail will not be easily exhausted, and the acknowledged superfluity of wealth possessed by our learned and charitable institutions, can now be sent to the Continent of Asia. Some short-sighted people, it is true, complain, that we are suffering for want of a hospital in this Metropolis, but what is this privation compared with the

deficit of bibles in the Birman Empire ?—We repeat, that we would not be guilty of any violation of the strictest rights of property, that a commencement only should be made for the gradual destruction of a nuisance, without injuring the property of the humblest individuals. But, when the ‘ancient families’ of the *Popmonets* and the *Kee-tohs*, shall experience the same fate that has already befallen the *Wepquish* and *Sincausin*, as well as the *Julian* and *Æmilian* races, that this colony shall then be dissolved, and our posterity released from its burthen and disgrace.

The fourth paper is entitled ‘Notes on Nantucket,’ from which we extract an account of a very ingenious clock constructed by Mr. Folger, one of the Senators of the State, and of very considerable scientific attainments.

‘Another object, which deserves attention, is a clock constructed by Mr. Walter Folger, and of which the following is a description in his own words : “The clock, beside what is usual in clocks, exhibits the rising and setting of the sun, which is represented by a flat plate moving behind the dial plate : the dial is open so far as to admit the sun’s being seen as long as it is above the horizon in Lat. 41° 16’. There are sliding plates, that close the opening on each side, and serve as an horizon : their motions are so regulated, as to cause the sun to make his appearance at the time he does in the heavens every day in the year, and set at the time the sun should set. The moon is represented by a silver ball, one half of which is made black : it appears, is seen, and disappears behind the dial in the same manner the sun does, rising at the time the moon does in the heavens, and setting at the time the moon sets. The moon turns on its axis once in a lunation, and by that means appears with all the different phases the moon appears with. The motion given to the horizons, that regulate the rising and setting of the moon, is more complicated than that of the sun. It takes the time of eighteen years and two hundred and twenty-five days to perform a revolution of one of the wheels, which is continually in motion. The date of the year is shown by the clock : the date changes on the first day of the year : one wheel for the purpose of showing it will take a hundred years to turn once round. The motion of that wheel is not a continued motion, but rests for the space of ten years. The time the sun rose and set may be seen by

‘the clock at any time of the day ; also the sun’s declination and place in the ecliptick ; and the moon’s declination.’

We also extract a part of the writer’s account of the Indians, who originally possessed this Island. At the period this was written, there were but two Indian men and six women left on the island, though the population was very considerable when it was first visited by the whites.

‘When the English first came to Nantucket, it was well inhabited by Indians. There were two tribes on the island, one at the west, and the other at the east end. The western tribe is supposed to have found its way thither from the Main, by the way of Martha’s Vineyard, Muskeget, and Tuckanuck Islands. The eastern tribe probably came directly across the Sound, which it might be induced to do, as in particular states of the air, Nantucket is visible from the southern shore of the county of Barnstable. But there was a tradition or fable among them, that an eagle having seized and carried off in his talons a papoos, the parents followed him in their canoe till they came to Nantucket, where they found the bones of their child dropped by the eagle.*

‘The Indians of Nantucket were a people who were destitute of most of the arts of life. They were acquainted with roasting, but not with boiling. Though they had all the materials on the shore ; yet they could not, like the Narragansets, coin wompompeag. They cultivated no plants, except maize, beans, squashes, and tobacco. To each family was assigned a portion of land, equal to about a quarter of an acre, which they broke up as well as they could with the rude tools that they possessed, called in their language mattoks, assisting each other in a very friendly manner. They could now and then kill a bird ; and there were a few deer : goat skins, but not the animal itself, were found by the English on the island. Fish could be obtained in the harbours, and on the coast ; and shell fish were abundant. During the winter, however, they frequently suffered the extremities of famine. Their clothes were sometimes skins, but for the most part coarse mats, made of grass.

* ‘Mr. Alden, in his *Memorabilia of Yarmouth*, gives an Indian fable, which differs somewhat from this. See *Coll. of Hist. Soc.* V. 56. 1st. Series.’

‘The two tribes were hostile to each other. Tradition has preserved a pleasing instance of the force of love. The western tribe having determined to surprise and attack the eastern tribe, a young man of the former, whose mistress belonged to the latter, being anxious for her safety, as soon as he was concealed by the shades of night, ran to the beach, flew along the shore below the limit of high water, saw his mistress a moment, gave her the alarm, and returned by the same route before day-break : the rising tide washed away the traces of his feet. The next morning he accompanied the other warriors of the tribe to the attack : the enemy was found prepared ; and no impression could be made on them. He remained undetected, till several years after peace being restored between the two tribes, and the young man having married the girl, the truth came to light.’

The fifth paper in this volume is a description of Duke’s County containing much minute detail, which serves the purpose of these collections by accumulating materials for history. We select from it a single passage, both for its mention of the oldest vestige of the European emigrants in this part of the Continent, and also for the romantick and secure spot they selected. In describing the Elizabeth Islands, the writer makes the following remarks on one of them.

‘Cuttyhunk has cliffs of clay, which are continually breaking down, and of consequence the island is diminishing. The other Elizabeth Islands are also wasting gradually. “At the west end, on the north side, is a pond of fresh water, three quarters of a mile in length. In the middle of its breadth, near the west end, is a rocky islet, containing near an acre of ground.”* On this islet Dr. Belknap, in 1797, had the satisfaction of finding the cellar of a store house, which was built by Gosnold, when he discovered the Elizabeth Islands in 1602. It is a vestige of the first work performed by Europeans on the New-England shores. Here they first penetrated the earth ; here the first edifice was erected. Only two centuries have passed away ; and from this humble beginning have arisen cities, numerous, large, and fair, in which are enjoyed all the refined delights of civilized life.’

The sixth article is a return of the number of slaves in Massachusetts in 1754, copied from the returns in the Se-

* Belknap’s Biog. II. 114.

cretary of State's office ; some towns are wanting, but the whole number given in was 2713. The State probably contained about three thousand. This may serve to encourage those states, who still hold a *few* slaves, and who can allege none of the reasons for it, that are assigned by the southern states, to imitate our example, and free themselves from this blot on their institutions.

There is a very copious account of Plymouth ; one of the most interesting towns in the history of Massachusetts, the place of the first landing of the forefathers of New-England. We shall extract from an anecdote, respecting the rock on which they landed.

'Forefather's Rock. The face of this rock was, in the year 1775, taken from its original bed, and placed by the side of a 'liberty pole,' which at that time was erected near the Court House, and where the rock still remains. The base of the rock yet continues, in open view, in its original situation, at the head of the longest wharf in Plymouth, built on the precise spot which uniform tradition assigns as its scite. There is a tradition, as to the person who first leaped upon this rock, when the families came on shore, Dec. 11, 1620 : it is said to have been a young woman, Mary Chilton.* This information comes from a source so correct, as induces us to admit it ; and it is a very probable circumstance, from the natural impatience in a young person, or any one, after a long confinement on ship board, to reach the land, and to escape from the crowded boat. We leave it therefore, as we find it, in the hands of history, and the fine arts.

In the description of Kingston, which follows that of Plymouth, there is a repartee to an illiberal remark of the famous Whitfield, that is worth transcribing.

* 'Among those who came in the May Flower, were, Richard Chilton, (who died the first winter) Mary and Susanna Chilton. Mary, it is said, married Mr. John Winslow ; and Susanna, Mr. — Latham. The descendants of Mr. Winslow are in Boston ; and of Mr. Latham, in Bridgewater. The tradition, we have reason to believe, is in both families. We are disposed, however, to generalise the anecdote. The first generation doubtless knew who came on shore in the first boats ; the second generation related it with less identity ; the third and fourth with still less ; like the stone thrown on the calm lake, the circles, well defined at first, become fainter as they recede. For the purposes of the arts, however, a female figure, typical of faith, hope, and charity, is well adapted.'

‘In a company of gentlemen, where Father Flynt, who was a preacher, and many years a tutor at Cambridge, was present, Mr. Whitfield said: “It is my opinion, that Dr. Tillotson is now in hell for his heresy.” Father Flynt replied, “It is my opinion, that you will not meet him there.”’

The Society have continued in this volume the republication of a curious book now very scarce, published in 1633, written by Mr. Johnson of Woburn, it is called ‘Wonder-working Providence of Sion’s Saviour in New England,’ and contains many facts relating to the characters and events of that period. The part contained in the present volume principally relates to the first gathering of the churches, and to a description of their pastors; every character is given in rhyme, as well as in prose. The verses are of the school of Sternhold and Hopkins, but, though lost on common readers, would be a pearl to the Antiquary. There is also a private letter from an officer, Major Savage, who commanded one of the Regiments in the expedition of Sir W. Phipps against Quebec; this letter which had become extremely scarce, affords some interesting facts relating to that expedition.

The only piece of Biography is the life, or as it is called by the author ‘Notices of General Lincoln;’ it is written with plainness and without pretension, and bears marks of an able hand. General Lincoln was one of the patriots and heroes of the revolution, whom we have always regarded with peculiar veneration and respect. There was a calm dignity in his manner, a graceful mildness in his demeanour, blended with steady firmness and cool intrepidity in his disposition, that softened and ennobled all the harsh and ferocious characteristicks of his profession. We have seldom seen a man in any country, who had more the appearance of the gentleman, who possessed more of the spotless integrity and genuine honour, that commands such high respect for military men, when combined with the other requisites of a soldier. We shall extract the conclusion of this memoir.

‘In General Lincoln’s character, strength and softness, the estimable and amiable qualities were happily blended. His mind was quick and active, yet discriminating and sound. He displayed a fund of thought and information, derived from select, though limited reading, from careful observation of men and things, from habits of thinking,

‘and from conversation. A degree of enthusiasm, or ex-
‘altation of feeling upon the objects of his pursuit, belonged
‘to his temperament, but it was under the control of good
‘sense and sober views. He was patient and cool in de-
‘liberation ; in execution, prompt and vigorous. A real and
‘effective, but not forward or bustling energy pertained to
‘his character. His virtues maintained their proper bounds
‘and were well tempered together. He was conspicuous
‘for plain, strict, inflexible integrity, united however with
‘prudence, candour, a liberal and compassionate disposi-
‘tion. He had, it was said, by constitution, strong pas-
‘sions, but they were so disciplined by reason and religion,
‘and qualified and counteracted by good sentiments and
‘generous feelings, that they never betrayed him into any
‘extravagance, nor suffered him to give way to any im-
‘pulse of anger. His composure and self possession, his
‘exemption from any apparent weakness or folly, his uniform
‘discretion and integrity made him revered, whilst the
‘goodness of his disposition, and his frank and cordial man-
‘ners, engaged affectionate regard. He knew how to ex-
‘ercise command without exciting aversion. Paying defer-
‘ence to the rights and feelings of others, whether present
‘or absent, his own were not likely to suffer injury or in-
‘sult. He made no extraordinary demands of attention,
‘but had an exact perception of propriety in intercourse.
‘By an expressive look, which was understood, by an
‘anecdote, by pleasant irony, or more directly, he was sure
‘to notice and to repress any symptoms of impertinence or
‘rudeness which any might show in his presence.

‘He was always an early riser, temperate in his habits,
‘frugal without parsimony, diligent and methodical in his
‘business, and able to do much without inconvenience or
‘hurry. The qualities and habits mentioned, with a ra-
‘tional religious faith and sincere piety, would naturally be
‘attended by ease and health of heart. Gen. Lincoln was
‘habitually cheerful, and was accustomed to look on the
‘bright side of objects. He was tender, but not given to
‘indulging the wail of sensibility, or a spirit of repining and
‘discontent. He believed in the great preponderance of
‘good in the human condition ; often mentioning particular-
‘ly the resources and comforts accommodated to the suc-
‘cessive periods of life, as affording proofs of the goodness
‘of the Creator. He thought gratitude, acquiescence and
‘hope a tribute, at all times due to a wise and benevolent

‘ Providence. He was called to encounter adversity in different forms ; some of which were of a nature to dishearten an ordinary man ; but his fortitude and equanimity never forsook him, and he always maintained an erect attitude.

‘ As a military commander, he was judicious, brave, determined, indefatigable. His distinguished merit in this character was never denied ; whilst all have not agreed in opinion upon some of his plans in the southern command. Being a soldier of the revolution, he had to anticipate the effect of experience, and might commit mistakes. He was surrounded by difficulties : he met extraordinary disappointments in his calculations upon supplies and success. In the principal instances which issued unfortunately, the storming of Savannah and the siege of Charleston, he had but a choice of evils ; and which ever way he decided, the course rejected would have seemed, to many persons, more eligible. He had true courage without rashness. His calmness in danger seemed like unconcern ; but he affirmed that he never was exposed, without feeling deeply interested for his own life and the lives of others.

‘ At the siege of Savannah, the British commander, Gen. Prevost, when he had determined to defend the place and apprehended a storm by the besiegers, requested the commanding generals of the allied army to suffer him to send out of Savannah the women and children. The refusal of this request has been condemned as inhuman by an English historian of the war,* and as unaccountable by an American writer of the southern campaigns.† The generals considered the British commander, under the circumstances, as responsible, and had strong military reasons for the refusal. They were so situated in respect to time, that they must succeed soon, or not at all ; and they doubtless were confident of carrying the place. The answer of the British commander’s request intimates the grounds of refusal.‡

* ‘ Stedman.’

† ‘ Gen. H. Lee.’

‡ ‘ Sir,

Camp before Savannah, Oct. 6, 1779.

‘ We are persuaded that your excellency knows all that your duty prescribes ; perhaps your zeal has already interfered with your judgment. The Count d’Estaing, in his own name, notified to you, that you would be personally and alone responsible for the consequences of your obstinacy. The time, which you informed him in the commencement of the siege would be necessary for the arrange-

‘ In civil functions of a publick nature, such as the office of Lieut. Governour, magistrate, and member of the legislature or other political bodies, he took the plain way of probity and patriotism, not despising popular favour, but never pursuing it as an end, and never thinking it an equivalent for the sacrifice of principle. By the change of political parties in the Commonwealth, his agency in supporting the laws and suppressing the insurrection came, at one time, to be considered as demerit, and the office of Lieut. Governour, when held by him, was, by this sinister influence, deprived of the limited salary, which the second magistrate of the state had always before received.

‘ General Lincoln was a federalist of the Washington school. From 1801, the party, which had opposed the federal administration, held the supreme power in the general government. He experienced the benefit of his weight of character, and the sense entertained by the community of his publick services, in being suffered to retain his office of collector.

‘ Religion exerted its full influence over the mind and conduct of General Lincoln. He was a christian of the antisectarian, catholic, or liberal sect. He was firm in his faith, serious and affectionate in his piety, without superstition, fanaticism or austerity. He was from early manhood a communicant, and for a great part of his life a deacon of the church. He never shunned an avowal of his belief, nor feared to appear what he was, nor permitted the reality of his convictions to remain in doubt. But avoiding ostentation and bitterness, thinking the excellence of the tree more apparent in the fruit than the leaves, and being a good man, the best proof of being a good christian, he was able to reconcile fidelity to his religion with the spirited and graceful exercise of his military functions and all the offices of civil and social life.

‘ ment of articles, including the different orders of men in your town, had no other object than that of receiving succour. Such conduct, Sir, is sufficient to forbid every intercourse between us, which might occasion the least loss of time; besides, in the present application, latent reasons may again exist; there are military ones, which, in frequent instances, have prevented the indulgence you request. It is with regret that we yield to the austerity of our functions; and we deplore the fate of those persons, who will be the victims of your conduct, and the delusion which appears to prevail in your mind.’

‘ Amidst the licence so common in armies, no profane expression or irreverent sally escaped his lips ; and no stain came upon the purity of his life.

‘ The person and air of General Lincoln betokened his military vocation. He was of middle height, and erect, broad chested, muscular, in his latter years corpulent, with open, intelligent features, a venerable and benign aspect. His manners were easy and unaffected, but courteous and polite. He delighted in children, and made himself loved by them. He admitted young persons of merit to his intimacy ; let them into his sentiments on interesting subjects, and was forward to aid their reputation and advancement in the world. He had a high relish for the pleasures of conversation, in which he bore his part without tediousness or prolixity, with good sense, delicate raillery, well timed anecdote, and always a moral vein. He was a constant and zealous friend. If his judgment was ever surprised by his feelings, it was when he was requested to take pecuniary responsibilities for an old companion in arms, which subjected him to much temporary inconvenience, though not great ultimate loss.

‘ His house was the seat of real hospitality. The accession to his income, during the last twenty years of his life, was applied to a decent provision for his advancing age, to the increase of his charities, and to the benefit of his numerous family. He twice made a distribution of considerable sums among his children. As they had good habits, and knew the use of property, he thought it unnecessary to leave their claims upon his estate to be chiefly or wholly answered by his executor.

‘ He lived in great conjugal happiness with the wife of his youth more than fifty five years, and had sons and daughters, in whom, and in their descendants, he found the greatest solace. He saw his children established chiefly in his town or in neighbouring places. His eldest son, a lawyer of rising reputation in Boston, died much lamented at twenty eight years of age. In these domestick relations, General Lincoln was distinguished by his accurate and amiable discharge of every duty.

‘ May the principles and virtues of such men as General Lincoln be exemplified in successive generations in our country, that the blessings purchased by the wisdom and valour of the fathers may be inherited by the children to the latest time.

‘ P. C.’

At the conclusion of the book is given a correspondence respecting Hubbard's Ms. History, which we only notice to do away the impression which seems to be entertained, that the imperfect sheets may be recovered from Dr. Oliver; accident made us acquainted with the circumstances of the correspondence. As for Dr. Oliver, his letter requires no comment, it furnishes a very correct idea, of what kind of person he is, but the society appear to think that he has the Ms. This is not the case; when he found such a thing was inquired for, he immediately wrote to Mr. Hutchinson, a son of the late Governor Hutchinson, hoping he might have the Ms. and desirous of getting it into his possession; when he could not succeed in this, pretending to have it, he wrote the precious epistle here published.

M. Tulii Ciceronis opera omnia, ex recensione novissima Io. Augusti Ernesti, cum eiusdem notis et clave Ciceronina. Editio prima Americana Tom. 3. Bostoniae. Wells et Lilly.

We have hitherto neglected, what was from the first our wish and intention, the saying a few words in favour of the undertaking of our publishers, to give a complete edition of the ancient classicks, if sufficient patronage could be obtained for this important enterprise. They commenced with the works of Cicero, of which the volume at the head of this article has been recently published. Those who knew how perfectly Mr. Wells was qualified for the task, anticipated the correctness with which it has been thus far executed. The edition, without any useless luxury of ornament, combines neatness, convenience and beauty. Among the numerous editions of Cicero, this which has been selected, is universally admitted to be one of the most accurate and complete; prepared by one of the latest, as well as one of the ablest, of the commentators who have profitted, with the greatest care and fidelity, by all that was valuable in the annotations of previous editors. All who have examined the previous volumes agree, that this American edition is not surpassed in accuracy by any of those of Europe.

Persons who wish to make a present to a young man in whom they take an interest, can offer no book more valuable than Cicero. There is no author whose whole works may